

REMARKS:

- 1) Referring to item 10) of the Office Action Summary, please indicate the acceptance of the drawings filed July 28, 2003.
- 2) Referring to item 12) of the Office Action Summary, please acknowledge the foreign priority claim and receipt of the certified copy of the priority document filed herein on July 28, 2003.
- 3) The Examiner's attention is directed to the Information Disclosure Statement being filed together with the present Response. Please consider the references and return an initialed, signed and dated acknowledgment copy of the IDS Form PTO-1449 of August 31, 2006.
- 4) The claims have been amended as follows.
 - Amended independent claim 1 incorporates prior claim 2.
 - Claim 13 has been amended into independent form incorporating prior claims 1 and 13.
 - Claim 15 has been amended into independent form incorporating prior claims 1 and 15.
 - Claims 2, 5 and 10 have been canceled.
 - New claims 19 and 20 have been added. Claim 19 is based on a combination of prior claims 1 and 5. Claim 20 is based on a combination of prior claims 1, 9 and 10.

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These claim amendments, merely involving claim combinations, do not introduce any new matter. Entry and consideration thereof are respectfully requested.

- 5) Referring to the bottom of page 3 of the Office Action, the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 2, 5, 10 and 13 to 18 is appreciated. This allowable subject matter has been incorporated in the independent claims, as follows.

Currently amended independent claim 1 incorporates the allowable subject matter of prior claims 1 and 2. Thus, claim 1 and its dependent claims 3, 4, 6 to 9, 11 and 12 should now be allowable.

Amended claim 13 is now an independent claim incorporating the allowable combination of prior claims 1 and 13. Thus, claim 13 and its dependent claim 14 should now be allowable.

Amended claim 15 is now an independent claim incorporating the allowable subject matter of prior claims 1 and 15. Thus, claim 15 and its dependent claims 16 to 18 should now be allowable.

New independent claim 19 is based on the allowable subject matter of prior claims 1 and 5, and should thus be allowable.

New independent claim 20 is based on the allowable subject matter of prior claims 1, 9 and 10 and should thus be allowable.

- 6) The rejection of claims 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 9 as anticipated by US Patent 5,522,114 (Allison) and the rejection of claims 1, 3, 4, 7 to 9, 11 and 12 as anticipated by US Patent 3,676,892 (Nordeen) have been obviated by the present amendments. All remaining

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independent claims incorporate allowable subject matter from prior non-rejected claims. Thus, the rejections are not applicable and should be withdrawn.

- 7) Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application, including all present claims 1, 3, 4, 6 to 9 and 11 to 20, are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
Thomas STEIN et al.
Applicant

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Enclosures:
Transmittal Cover Sheet
Inform. Discl. Statement
Form PTO-1449
1 reference
Form PTO-2038

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CERTIFICATE OF FAX TRANSMISSION:

I hereby certify that this correspondence with all indicated enclosures is being transmitted by telefax to (571) 273-8300 on the date indicated below, and is addressed to: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450.

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